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Parents and Partners

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Parents and Partners

Rain did not dampen the spirit of family members of the students of the Class of 1993. On Saturday, September 16 the School hosted 165 parents and partners of incoming freshman to provide an overview of the veterinary education at Penn. The morning session included topics on the curriculum, student financial aid and the small animal hospital's emergency service; tours of the hospital followed.

Following lunch and a pleasant bus ride to New Bolton Center, Dr. Elaine Hammel and Dr. James Orsini presented an overview of the large animal facility and conducted tours of the various buildings as well as bus tours of the grounds.

At the conclusion of the day, students rejoined their family members for conversation and refreshments.



on PN, limited milk feedings and electrolytes, while the other received milk feedings and electrolytes. All calves also received an antimicrobial drug for 14 days.

The survival rate for calves in both groups was the same, however, calves receiving PN had an increased weight gain and improved appearance and attitude than did the control group. Dr. Divers feels that parenteral nutrition appears to be an effective means of providing a large portion of the caloric needs to calves that cannot take appropriate amounts of milk orally.

"The amount of PN administered intravenously is probably only supportive for the sick calf as we don't know the exact metabolic needs of each sick calf," he said. "PN helps to prevent the skid so often seen in seriously ill young calves, and the feeding of some milk provides additional energy and protein along with vitamins and minerals and helps maintain intestinal enzyme activity."

Dr. Divers pointed out that the primary benefit of PN is seen in calves with enteric disease that do not have life-threatening diseases of other organs. He stressed that nursing care and a proper environment must be part of the PN treatment. It is not a treatment done easily in the field, rather it requires close monitoring and supervision to detect any changes in the status of the animal.

Parenteral nutrition for critically ill patients is used not only for calves, but also for foals at New Bolton Center as well as for the treatment of cats and dogs at VHUP. This technology, "borrowed" from human medicine, is saving countless lives, particularly when the patients are very young animals.

The field study of the effects of parenteral nutrition was done in conjunction with researchers from the University of Wisconsin and Baxter Laboratories.

Dr. Abt Appointed Marshak Term Professor

Donald A. Abt, professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, has been named the Robert R. Marshak Term Professor of Aquatic Animal Medicine and Pathology. The chair is the nation's first in aquatic animal medicine to be established at a veterinary school.

As holder of the chair, Abt has become the director of the Laboratory for Marine Animal Health (LMAH), a diagnostic laboratory established in 1981 by Penn and the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University that is a part of the world-renowned Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) in Woods Hole, Mass.

Founded primarily to study diseases of marine animals used in research, the laboratory has increasingly been called upon to participate in investigations of environmental and ecological problems. It has described more than 40 previously unknown diseases affecting marine life since its inception eight years ago.

Abt, a graduate of Penn's Veterinary School who joined the faculty in 1961, is director of the AQUAVET program, an intensive introductory course in aquatic veterinary medicine in which the LMAH plays a vital role. The annual course, held at the MBL, covers a broad sampling of topics, ranging from ecology and anatomy of marine invertebrates to marine mammal health.

In announcing Abt's appointment to the Marshak chair, Edwin J. Andrews, dean of the Veterinary School, said, "It is most fitting that the individual who pioneered our AQUAVET program and the School's focus on aquatic animal medicine and pathology be awarded this honor. He brings to this position his enthusiasm for this specialty area, his encyclopedic knowledge of the School and, indeed, veterinary medicine across the nation."

Abt is a member of numerous professional organizations including the American Veterinary Medical Association, the United States Animal Health Association and the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine. He served on the research advisory board of the Institute of Environmental Medicine at Penn from 1978 until 1986 and the J.F. Kapnek Charitable Trust since 1985.

Phyllis Holtzman

Doris Boucher Honored

For almost half a century Penn's veterinary students have been the beneficiaries of Doris Boucher's baking and dessert making skills. Newly married in 1940 she and her husband Bill (V'40) opened their West Philadelphia home to students. Later, when the Bouchers moved to Upper Darby, their home became a focal point for the many students who came to the School during the war years.

"We had an open house Tuesdays and Sundays," reminisced Doris Boucher. "Students came over for dessert, we would talk and sometimes have jam sessions." When the Bouchers moved to Media in 1945 where Dr. Boucher headed the Ambulatory Service, senior students rotating through the service lived in the same house. In 1950 the Bouchers moved across the street, and here Dr. Boucher would hold oral case histories and once the work was out of the way, dessert was served and music was made. The tradition continued until 1984 at New Bolton Center where the Bouchers moved in 1967, here the interns were included in the Tuesday throng.

In 1981, when Dr. Boucher retired from the faculty, Doris began her Thursday bake sales at New Bolton Center. The funds raised through this activity are donated to the Doris and William Boucher scholarship fund.

Doris Boucher's dedication to generations of Penn Veterinary students was recognized by the Auxiliary to the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association at the recent PVMA meeting held in Lancaster. During a special luncheon Auxiliary President Mrs. Janet H. Dougherty presented Mrs. Boucher with a water color of the Allam House, painted by Ruthe Guenther, wife of Fred R. Guenther (V'52). The Auxiliary also made a donation to Mrs. Boucher's cookie fund. The citation read "This is in recognition of your Cookie Sale Project at the Widener Hospital at New Bolton Center, for funds which you donate to be used for student loans. It is also in appreciation of your many years of hospitality for staff and students of the Veterinary School of the University of Pennsylvania. You have been a true helpmate to your husband and his profession."

When Mrs. Boucher and her husband set out for Lancaster on October 14, she had no idea that she was to attend a luncheon in her honor. "I thought Bill was taking me to an antique show as part of a birthday celebration. Imagine my surprise when I was whisked into the room and found myself as the honoree. It was a wonderful surprise!"



Mrs. Boucher and Mrs. Ruthe Guenther with water color presented to Mrs. Boucher by the Auxiliary to the PVMA.